

Chaining of Services

ABSTRACT

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A method and apparatus is provided for invoking authenticated transactions on behalf of a user when the user is not present. For example, the invention allows a subscription to take actions that would otherwise require authentication. A method and apparatus is provided that gives apparent authority to a service that allows the service to get services from other services without revisiting the client. Thus, the architecture enables a Web Services Provider to assume the role of a Web Services Client and invoke other services required to perform its service. As each Web Services Provider calls another Web Services Provider, the Discovery Service adds the Web Services Provider's footprint to the Service Assertions it passes on such that a trail of Web Services Providers is imprinted into the Service Assertion and is visible to the Discovery Service. Each Web Services Provider in the chain can also add permission requests.

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